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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE MID-TERM
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s
Organizational session
New York, 20 and 21 June 1996

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Opening statements.

4. Election of the Bureau:

   (a) Election of the Chairperson;

   (b) Election of other members of the Bureau.

5. Organization of work.

6. Adoption of the report of the organizational session.

7. Closing remarks.

ANNOTATIONS

Election of the Bureau

In paragraph 5 of its resolution 50/160 of 22 December 1995, the General Assembly decided that the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole should be constituted at the highest appropriate level and composed of a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

Organization of work

Working groups

To conduct the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s as requested in resolution 50/160, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole should establish the following working groups:

(a) Working Group I on the assessment of national efforts based on relevant inputs from African countries;

(b) Working Group II on the response of the international community, including the United Nations system and the necessary measures to accelerate and improve the implementation of the New Agenda.

Documentation

For the conduct of the mid-term review, the following documents will be submitted and circulated by 1 August 1996:

(a) A report by the Secretary-General, which will serve as the basic document for the mid-term review. The report will include, in particular, the findings by the Economic Commission for Africa on actions and progress achieved by African countries in the implementation of the New Agenda (see resolution 50/160, para. 7). It will also include relevant inputs from Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on their efforts towards the implementation of the New Agenda;

(b) An assessment and recommendations by the Organization of African Unity on the implementation of the New Agenda (see para. 46 of the New Agenda).

In addition to the above, the following background/information documents will be made available to the Ad Hoc Committee:

(a) "Partners in progress: Africa and the international community - Assessment of the implementation of the principles of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the Tokyo Declaration on African Development";

(b) Outcome of the Seminar on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, to be held in Tokyo on 27 and 28 August 1996;

(c) Report on the emerging role of non-governmental organizations in African sustainable development;

(d) Report on resource requirements for the full implementation of the New Agenda.

Participation of non-governmental organizations

According to paragraphs 21 and 41 of the New Agenda and paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 50/160, non-governmental organizations are partners in the implementation of the New Agenda. The organizational session will have to clarify their form of participation in the mid-term review.

Dates

According to General Assembly resolution 50/160, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole should meet for a period of up to seven working days in September 1996 and, in principle, prior to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

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INFORMATION NOTE ON PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s

Background

1. According to paragraphs 21 and 41 of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 50/160 of 22 December 1995, non-governmental organizations are partners in the implementation of the New Agenda.

2. Though a large number of non-African non-governmental organizations interested in African development have been accredited by the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the provisions of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968, many local African non-governmental organizations involved in activities related to the priorities of the New Agenda have no consultative status.

3. Paragraph 100 of the report of the Secretary-General on the general review of arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations of 26 May 1994 (E/AC.70/1994/5) states that participation of non-governmental organizations in international conferences convened by the United Nations are determined on a case-by-case basis by the organ convening a given conference, directly or on the recommendation of the preparatory body for the conference. These rules generally cover the criteria for both accreditation and participation, and although the rights of non-governmental organizations to attend and participate have varied from one conference to another, the recent

trend has been towards greater flexibility in granting non-governmental organizations access to international conferences.

4. Furthermore, according to the above-mentioned report, relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may be given an opportunity to address briefly the Preparatory Committee in plenary meeting and its subsidiary bodies. Other relevant non-governmental organizations may also ask to speak briefly at such meetings. If the number of requests is too large, the Preparatory Committee will request that the non-governmental organizations form themselves into constituencies, with each constituency speaking through one spokesperson. Any oral intervention by a non-governmental organization should, in accordance with normal United Nations practice, be made at the discretion of the Chairman and with the consent of the Preparatory Committee (ibid., annex I, para. 3 (i)).

5. Finally, the report mentions that relevant non-governmental organizations may, at their own expense, make written presentations in the official languages of the United Nations during the preparatory process, as they deem appropriate. Those written presentations will not be issued as official documents unless they are in accordance with the United Nations rules of procedure (ibid., annex I, para. 3 (j)).

Facts

6. Since the International Conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process in Africa, held in Arusha, Tanzania, in 1990, the emerging role of non-governmental organizations in Africa's development process has been acknowledged. The Secretary-General officially reaffirmed this role during the second meeting of the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development, held at Rome in April 1993. The Tokyo Declaration on African Development adopted at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development in October 1993 also stressed the need to enhance cooperation efforts with local non-governmental organizations and other institutions of civil society which play constructive roles for African development.

7. On this basis, the relationship and cooperation between the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries and non-governmental organizations have evolved through constant consultation on priority issues of the New Agenda and through the preparatory mechanisms for important intergovernmental processes, including the Brainstorming Workshop on non-governmental organizations and African development, held in New York on 16 and 17 January 1995; the parallel event to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on "Priority Africa, a policy dialogue among development actors", held at Geneva on 3 July 1995; the United Nations International Workshop on the Informal Sector and Development, held in June 1995; and subsequent meetings.

Participation of non-governmental organizations

8. Several non-governmental organizations have been part of this ongoing consultation and are planning to participate in the mid-term review in September in an organized and coordinated way. First, they will publish a report that

will serve as background information to delegates to the Ad Hoc Committee. They are also planning to hold a two-day meeting prior to the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to finalize a statement as a contribution to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. A list of non-governmental organizations presently involved in the preparation of the mid-term review of the New Agenda is available upon request.

Decision of the organizational session

9. The organizational session may, therefore, wish to consider appropriate modalities for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the mid-term review of the New Agenda and in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.